

966,386

COMPLETE SPECIFICATION

1 SHEET

This drawing is a reproduction of the Original on a reduced scale.

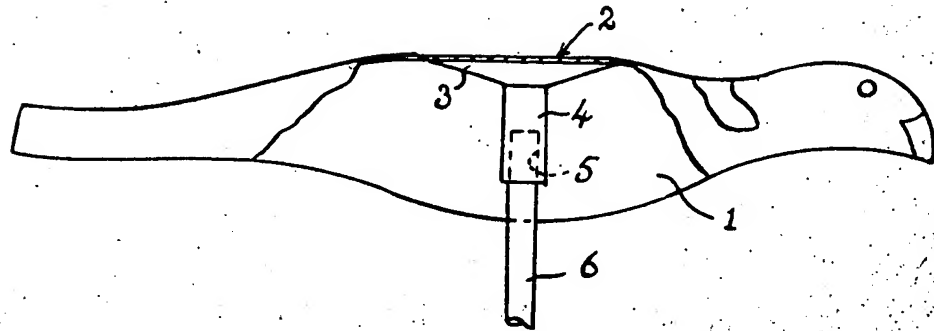


Fig. 1.

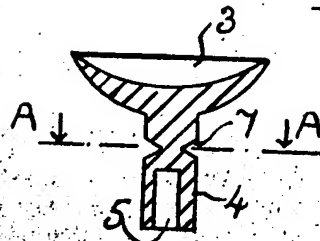


Fig. 2.

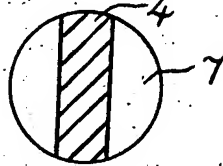


Fig. 3.

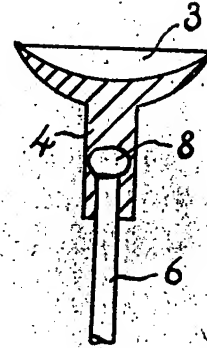


Fig. 4.

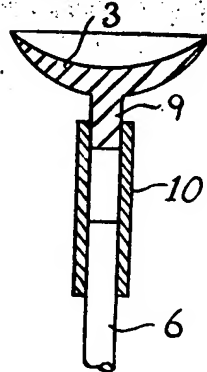


Fig. 5.

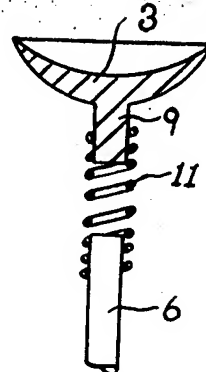


Fig. 6.

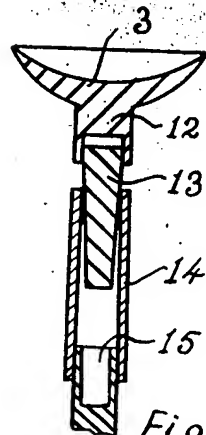


Fig. 7.

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# PATENT SPECIFICATION

DRAWINGS ATTACHED

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## COMPLETE SPECIFICATION

### Improvements Relating to Decoy Birds or Animals

5 We, WILLIAM HENRY DUROWS, of 74, Bridle Lane, Streetly, Sutton Coldfield, Warwickshire, and PETRIE VICTOR WALTER KNOWLES, of 60, Salisbury Road, Moseley, Birmingham, 13, both British Subjects, do hereby declare the invention, for which we pray that a patent may be granted to us, and the method by which it is performed, to be particularly described and ascertained in and by the following statement:—

10 This invention relates to decoy birds or animals, such as are used to attract wild birds or animals for example for shooting or for observation. Such a decoy comprises an artificial representation of the bird or animal to be attracted, or another bird or animal, and is often mounted so as to move in a lifelike manner under the influence of wind or other forces.

20 One common method of mounting a decoy so as to move in a lifelike manner is to form a hole or socket in the central region of the decoy to receive freely the upper part of a support such as a peg, and to form the peg with a shoulder or other abutment of greater dimension than the hole or socket so that the decoy can rest upon and pivot about the shoulder or abutment in its own vertical longitudinal plane so as to execute a natural movement representing, for example, in the case of a bird, a pecking movement. Spinning about the axis of the hole or socket is undesirable as a rule, since birds or animals do not normally perform such movements, and to this end the hole or socket and the peg are normally made non-circular, or some other means is provided to prevent spinning.

35 It is also known to mount a decoy by attaching one end of a coil spring to the decoy and the other to the support, the spring then supporting the decoy in stable equilibrium, permitting it to perform the desired movements, and preventing it from spinning.

According to this invention, a mounting for

45 a bird or animal decoy comprises a suction cup of rubber or like resilient material for adhering to the decoy and a resilient member for connecting the suction cup to a support member, the resilient member having sufficient rigidity to support the decoy in stable equilibrium whilst permitting it to move under the influence of wind or other forces.

50 With this mounting, not only is the decoy able to move in the desired manner—that is, to pivot, usually in its own longitudinal vertical plane, but it is also prevented from spinning about the axis of the suction cup. Furthermore, it is positively held against any tendency to be dislodged by exceptional wind or other forces, the suction cup being of such dimensions and design that its adherence to the decoy will withstand such forces. These dimensions and design will of course depend upon the size and weight of the decoy with which it is to be used, and the conditions under which the decoy is to be employed. The mounting is particularly suited to use with decoys made from lightweight materials such as plastics or light metal sheet which could be carried away easily by the wind.

65 According to a further feature of the invention, a decoy has such a mounting.

70 Preferably the resilient member extends axially from the rear of the suction cup and is formed at its end remote from the cup with connection means for engaging a complementarily shaped part of a support member. It may be separate from, and attachable to, the suction cup, or may be formed integrally with it, from the same material, for example by moulding. If the resilient member is moulded, either separately from, or integrally with, the suction cup, it may be secured permanently to the support member by including a part of the latter as an insert in the mould. Alternatively the resilient member may be designed to grip a part of the support member, or to

be gripped by it, or may be secured to it by adhesive or other means.

Embodiments of the invention are illustrated, by way of example, by the accompanying drawings, in which:—

Figure 1 is an elevation of a bird decoy on a mounting, part of the decoy being broken away to reveal the mounting.

Figure 2 is an elevation of one form of mounting.

Figure 3 is a section on the line A—A of Figure 2, drawn to a somewhat larger scale.

Figures 4 to 7 are sectional elevations of other forms of mounting.

Referring first to Figure 1, a woodpigeon decoy 1 is formed from thermoplastic sheet so as to have roughly the shape of a woodpigeon in a feeding position when viewed from above. The central region 2 of the back of the decoy is formed with a flat somewhat larger than the suction cup 3 of the mounting, whilst its remaining parts are contoured so as to represent the bird. The mounting comprises a suction cup 3 of the usual shape; circular in plan and with crescent shaped cross section, the crescent shape of course being flattened when applied to the decoy as shown, the cupped surface of the cup being pressed against the underside of the flat region 2. As is common practice, moisture may be applied to the cup before it is pressed against the region 2 to assist its adherence.

For decoys not formed with a flat central region 2, a piece of material with a flat, non-porous surface may be stuck or otherwise attached to the underside of the decoy to receive the suction cup.

Projecting axially from the centre of the rear of the suction cup is a resilient stem 4 moulded integrally with the cup, cylindrical in cross section, and having a socket 5 at its end to receive the end of a support peg 6, of slightly larger cross section than the socket so as to be firmly gripped. The length and diameter of the stem 4 are such that it is sufficiently stiff to support the weight of the decoy and hold it in the desired position but flexible enough to permit the decoy to rock under the influence of wind or other forces.

In order to encourage rocking in a particular plane the stem 4 may be of non-circular cross section so as to bend more easily in the desired plane than in others. For example it may be of oblong cross section with its major dimension transverse to the decoy. Figure 2 shows an alternative method of providing a preferred rocking plane. In the mounting there are shown the suction cup 3 and the stem 4 are of the same general shape as that shown in Figure 1, but V-shaped notches 7 are formed on opposite sides of the stem. In order to provide for "pecking" movements of a bird decoy such as shown in Figure 1 this mounting would be applied to the decoy with the notches 7 directed towards the head

and tail of the decoy. In view of the weakening of the stem due to the notches 7 it would be formed with a somewhat larger diameter than would the stem of a mounting as shown in Figure 1 for supporting the same decoy.

Figure 4 shows a modification of the mounting shown in Figure 1, in which the stem 4 is permanently secured to the support peg 6 by forming an enlargement 8 on the end of the peg and including it as an insert in the mould when the mounting is moulded.

Figure 5 shows a mounting having a suction cup 3 as before but in which the resilient member is separately formed. In this embodiment the suction cup has an axial spigot 9 projecting from its rear surface which is received and gripped by a resilient tubular member 10 of rubber or like material. The other end of the tubular member receives the end of a support peg as in the other embodiments already described. With this arrangement, the stiffness of the mounting may be varied according to the weight of the decoy and the forces it is required to withstand by varying the amount by which the peg is pushed into the resilient tubular member 10.

Figure 6 shows an embodiment similar to that of Figure 5 in which the resilient tubular member is replaced by a coiled wire spring 11. The stiffness of the wire and the closeness of the coils are chosen so as to provide the desired degree of support and flexibility, and again variations in the flexibility may be made by varying the amount by which the peg is inserted.

Figure 7 shows an arrangement in which the resilient member is formed in two separate parts to provide for varying the stiffness. In this case the suction cup is formed with an axial socket 12 on its rear surface. Inserted into the socket is the thickener end of a tapered resilient stem 13 of rubber or the like. The thinner end of the stem is inserted into a resilient tubular member 14 into the opposite end of which is inserted the end of a support peg 6. The dimensions and stiffness of the stem and the tubular member are such that when assembled as shown the maximum amount of flexibility required is provided. If less flexibility is required, for example if a decoy is to be used in strong winds, the tubular member 14 can be removed and the thinner end of the stem 13 can be inserted into a socket 15 provided for the purpose in the end of the peg 6.

In any of the embodiments of Figures 1 to 5 the resilient members may, instead of fitting over the end of the support peg, be received in a socket in the end of the support. Supports other than pegs may, of course, be used in any case, all that is required being either a spigot to enter a socket at the end of the resilient member, or a socket to receive the end of the resilient member, formed on the support member.

When attached to the underside of a decoy, as shown in Figure 1, the mounting has the advantage, in addition to those previously mentioned, that there is no projection on the upper surface of the decoy, which would be visible to, and may render suspicious, the birds or animals it is desired to lure. The mounting need not, of course, be attached to the underside of the decoy, but could be adhered to its top or side surfaces, according to the position and manner in which the decoy is to be used. All that is necessary is the provision of a smooth, flat, non-porous surface on the decoy at the part to which the mounting is to be adhered.

In any embodiment of the invention, provided that the suction cup is firmly attached or secured to the resilient member, and the resilient member to the support member, the decoy is prevented from executing any movements other than those desired, which are permitted by the flexibility of the resilient member.

#### WHAT WE CLAIM IS:—

1. A mounting for a bird or animal decoy comprising a suction cup of rubber or like resilient material for adhering to the decoy and a resilient member for connecting the suction cup to a support member, the resilient member having sufficient rigidity to support the decoy in stable equilibrium whilst permitting it to move under the influence of wind or other forces.
2. A mounting according to Claim 1 in which the resilient member extends axially from the rear of the suction cup and is formed at its end remote from the cup with connection means for engaging the support member.
3. A mounting according to Claim 2 in which the connection means is a socket for receiving a part of the support member.
4. A mounting according to any preceding claim in which the resilient member is secured permanently to the support member.
5. A mounting according to any preceding claim wherein the resilient member is formed integrally with the suction cup.
6. A mounting according to any preceding claim in which the resilient member has differing resistance to bending in different planes so as to provide a preferred plane of movement of the decoy.
7. A mounting according to any of Claims 1 to 4 wherein the resilient member is a coiled spring.
8. A mounting according to any preceding claim having variable flexibility.
9. A mounting according to Claim 1 or Claim 2 in which the resilient member is formed in two parts, engaging each other releasably in end to end relation, and each having connection means for engaging the support member, whereby one or both the parts may be used according to the flexibility required.
10. A mounting for a bird or animal decoy substantially as hereinbefore described with reference to and as illustrated by Figure 1 or Figures 2 and 3 or any of Figures 4 to 7 of the accompanying drawings.
11. A bird or animal decoy having a mounting according to any preceding claim.

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